

Meteor-Heraut

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Quick Read

In General

Tsunami collection set

Chapel congregations throughout the U.S. Army plan a free-will collection for Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami relief Jan. 30. Congregations may voluntarily offer a contribution on this date, and relief will reach people in the devastated area through several agencies via the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains.

Belgium

It's in the cards

The Installation Access Control System (IACS) is up and running at Chièvres Air Base. Gate guards will now scan your Community Access Card to allow entry to the base.

Tasty culture offered

The Black History Month food tasting is Feb. 3, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Chièvres Air Base Commissary.

Beware low-flying objects

Crossage returns to downtown Chièvres Feb. 9, 11 a.m. to sunset. An oblong wooden ball is hammered through the streets by players using wooden mallets. Vehicle access through Chièvres is diverted at this time, and because of the risk of property damage, cars parked in downtown Chièvres must be removed. Info: DSN 361-5419.

AFAP gears up

Do you have an issue concerning the Brussels community and a suggestion to improve it? Drop off an issue form by Feb. 15 at an ACS AFAP blue box located throughout the NSA Brussels community. Issues will be addressed at the NSA Brussels Army Family Action Plan forum March 8-9, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Info: DSN 368-9643 or stop by NSA Brussels ACS, Building 4, Room 306.

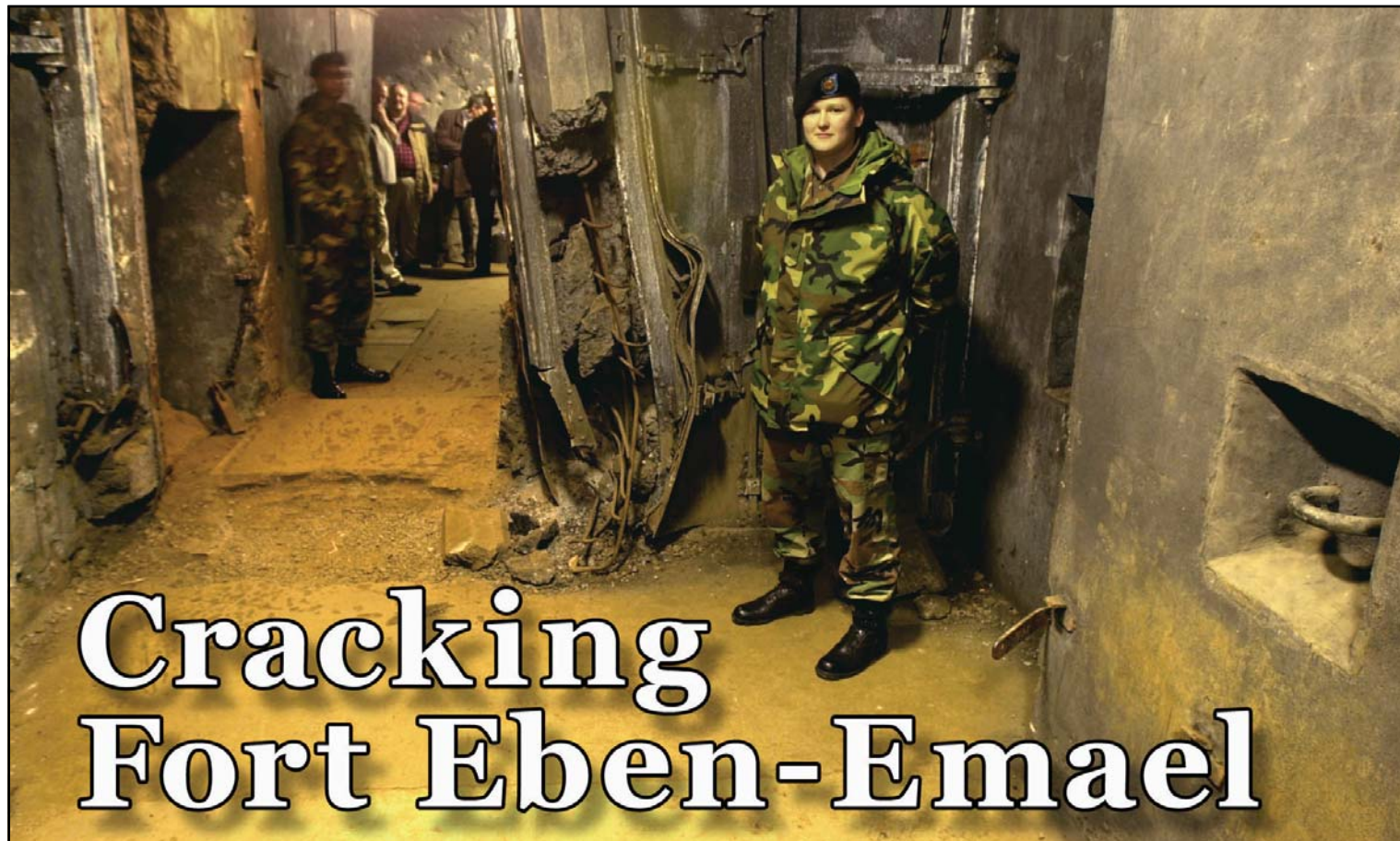
Netherlands and Germany

All work and no play...

The Alliance Players Theater presents "Frankenstein The Panto" at AFNorth Alliance Theatre, JFC HQ. Shows are: Feb. 4, 7 p.m.; Feb. 5, 2 and 7 p.m.; and Feb. 6, 2 p.m. Tickets for NATO ID cardholders and guests are adults •6, children 9 and under •4, and can be purchased now at: JFC HQ Brunssum at the HIVE; UKDSU; from Andrew Shenston at the British Dental Centre 31 45 526 2293; and from Hank Slaughter, U.S. Medical Clinic, Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base. The audience can attend in fancy dress since Carnaval begins the same weekend. Info: info@allianceplayers.com.

Community meets

The Tri-Border Town Hall Meeting is Feb. 26, 1-2 p.m., at Schinnen Sports Center. Info: DSN 360-7500.



PHOTOS: Rick Haverinen

Spc. Rebecca Jones, 80th Area Support Group, stands in the magazine area below a 75mm artillery emplacement at Fort Eben-Emael on the Meuse River in Belgium south of Maastricht. German Soldiers blew through the door to the left using a 50 kilogram shaped charge as part of the capture of the fort from the Belgian Army.

By J.D. Hardesty

Belgium's Fort Eben-Emael is perched five kilometers south of the Dutch city of Maastricht and 35 kilometers from the German border and provided a classroom backdrop for 80th Area Support Group staff to learn tactical lessons from a World War II battlefield.

"What happened here had nothing to do with a lack of Belgian Soldier bravery," said Lt. Col. Scott Glass, director of plans, training, mobilization and security for the 80th Area Support Group. "They fought hard and many died here."

Reputed as the "world's strongest fort" when it was completed in 1935, Fort Eben-Emael was constructed to defend strategically-neutral Belgium's bridges over the Meuse River near Maastricht at Veldwezelt, Vroenhoven, Kanne, Lanaye, and Vise against a German invasion.

Built along the Albert Canal, the fort was positioned and equipped to be highly resistant against orthodox attacks and conventional weaponry.

"The fort is a monument to Belgian bravery," Glass said, "and it's also a monument to one side being flexible to change and the other not."

The Germans developed unorthodox procedures and fielded new weaponry to overtake the fort and continue an invasion into France.

"Leaders adapting and implementing lessons learned, such as those studied during WWII battlefield walks, help transform America's Army for the future," Glass said. "Implementing lessons learned on the battlefield gave German forces new visionary tactics to overtake the fortress."

With six months of intense, isolated training prior to the attack, Soldiers from the Third Reich employed secrecy, surprise, discipline, visionary leadership, new methodology and weaponry to capture the fort. The Germans chose an aerial assault of nine gliders, each with seven- to eight-person crews, to destroy

the fort's artillery and breach its defensive capabilities with armor-piercing, shaped-charge explosives.

German forces had pre-positioned along its border for the ground invasion into Belgium. But, before this conventional invasion tactic could be successful, the fort's defensive artillery had to be destroyed.

The gliders, hidden by silence and darkness minutes before daybreak, landed on the fort's "roof" and the German Soldiers smashed the fort's artillery and anti-aircraft capabilities along with its defensive wherewithal.

The May 10, 1940 strike on Fort Eben-Emael was similar to the American experience when the Japanese raided Pearl Harbor 19 months later. The surprise attack was also the method chosen by Germany to notify Belgium that the countries were at war.

With 1,200 Belgian troops garrisoned at or near the fort, the German war machine placed a strong footprint on Belgian soil and captured more than 1,000 Belgian Soldiers within 36 hours.

According to Col. Dean Nowowiejski, commander of the 80th ASG, there are four key inter-related issues between the Nazi's attack on Fort Eben-Emael and the ASG's installation footprint: force protection; surprise; secrecy; and new weapons.

Fort Eben-Emael's force protection posture was prepared for just about every threat except the actual methods the Germans chose for attack.

The Germans' early-morning surprise attack during the changing of the guard force and using new methodology made the fort vulnerable. "What ways are we vulnerable that we aren't thinking of," Nowowiejski asked his staff. "What lessons here are applicable to our daily missions?"

The colonel said Fort Eben-Emael's force

The blast blew a laminated steel door weighing tons down the short hallway to the left, and killed six Belgian Soldiers who were guarding the door from the other side. The attack began with gliders landing atop the fort before sunrise May 10, 1940 and by 12:30 p.m. the next day the garrison had surrendered.

protection complacency aided in its fall; that all of the population within the 80th ASG's installation footprint must be trained, rehearsed and properly equipped to respond to all threats; additionally, essential operational information must be safeguarded.

"There are other lessons we can learn about teamwork, training, communications and air defense from studying this battle," Glass said. "Lessons learned, like those here today at Eben-Emael, is just one of the never-ending processes we draw on to protect our Soldiers, their families, our nation and our allies."

Glass added, "Today's Army is transforming, as is the 80th ASG. Fort Eben-Emael is a classic example of how one side in a conflict



Glass



Tour guide Marc Bonnyns explains the revolving 120mm artillery cannon Dec. 7 at Fort Eben-Emael.

can adapt and transform its tactics and equipment. The side that cannot adapt and transform will likely be defeated.

"In today's Army, there are no laurels for leaders to rest upon," Glass said. "You're only as good as how well you transform to fight and win the next battle."



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski
80th ASG Commander

Nowowiejski Notes

Well, here we are at the end of January, the first month in a New Year, with a new Presidential administration inaugurated, the Martin Luther King holiday safely past, the Iraqi elections this weekend, and President's weekend next month along with Valentines' Day. New school semesters underway, and we begin to look toward new deployment rotations, the family separations they bring, and the summer cycle of PCS rotations. It seems as good a time as any to **pause and reflect** on how things are going and to review where we are headed.

First, we should continue to **support those who are deploying or are deployed** as our first priority. In an extended community like this, with many units, complex relationships, and individual deployments, it is often difficult to be aware of those around us who are deployed. There are more deployed from the NATO headquarters than you might expect. I ask that we collectively work toward knowing who needs our support, and offering tangible means of help to those who are serving abroad, no matter the service or activity we belong to. Our first priority in this should be the waiting family members.

I have written before on a couple of community needs and I will repeat this here for emphasis. Please pay careful attention to the security of your military identification

card or installation pass. **We need to eliminate casual loss of ID**, in the car, in the house, or the restaurant you last visited. Secondly, please continue to cut down on your utility consumption this winter, so that we can put those dollars to other more permanent uses besides heat and light.

Last edition I wrote of the physical security risks we face in our area of operations. Let's return to that issue one more time. In an effort to prevent being pickpocketed, or from your home being broken into, probably the best protection you have is **awareness of your environment**, and your ability to **blend into your surroundings**. On official occasions, we want to be recognized as Americans living in the Benelux. On personal occasions, your best protection is keeping a **low profile**. This comes both in your actions and your dress. You don't want to stand out as an ugly American, and you want to look like our hosts.

You want your home to look occupied, even when you are not there. You probably need to give consideration to where valuable items are stored in your home. If a thief is in your home, can that person easily find your treasures? Do you use a personal fire safe? **Do you mark your valuables** so that they are not easily resold as stolen goods? As you stay alert to those around you, to risks and threats, and as you blend into our host countries, you will be both safer and happier to be here.

Commander urges safety in Army aviation

Bell Sends #12-05
12 January 2005
Aviation Safety

1. USAREUR aviation Soldiers are doing a great job around the world for the Army and our Nation. Army aviation is a vital part of the combined-arms team as we continue to fight the Global War on Terrorism. In the last 3 years of combat operations, our aircrews and maintainers have flown more than half a million hours. Our aviation commanders have faced and overcome the challenges of rapidly changing and complex combat operational environments, aviation reorganization, and the effects of pre- and post-combat deployment operations while balancing the requirements of individual and collective training.

2. A consequence of these challenges is increased risk. During the course of the Global War on Terrorism, the Army had 32 Class A accidents that cost the lives of 21 of our Soldiers. The causes of these accidents have included poor weather decisions, inappropriate crew mixes, stressed maintainers, and inadequate air mission briefings, among others. One of the qualities that we as a value- and capabilities-based Army cherish is our ability to make candid, professional assessments of our abilities and preparedness. Now is the time to do this.

3. The Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General Cody, has directed that aviation orga-

nizations make certain regulatory, procedural, and cultural changes that will enhance our organizational abilities to identify and mitigate hazards that endanger our personnel and equipment. A copy of his directive can be found on the United States Army Safety Center Web site at https://safety.army.mil/vcsa_aviation_safety_directive.doc. The USAREUR G3 is publishing specific guidance to help USAREUR commanders and safety, standardization, and maintenance personnel implement the provisions of this directive. They include not only regulatory and policy changes, but cultural changes as well. We will embrace these changes wholeheartedly.

4. To meet the intent of General Cody's directive, we must change some of the ways that we do business.

- Commanders. Take a candid look at how your organizations assess aircrew preparation and mission suitability. Enhance the high standards that you have vested in your aircrew training programs. Use your experienced personnel to evaluate your leading indicators [flight simulator training, abort rates, readiness-level training, and pilot in command (PC) training and evaluation].

Get personally involved in the training of your aircrews. Evaluate your air mission briefers.

- Senior NCOs. Taking care of Soldiers as NCO business is something we value greatly. You have a wealth of experience that your Soldiers need. You are all familiar with the principles of the Cody Model and how to compensate for gaps in experience or knowledge. Your experience makes the difference—share it! Find out what is happening on the flightline and what your Soldiers think and need. Learn what problems they have, and find creative ways to solve them. Let them know we care.

- Air Mission Briefings. Air mission briefings serve a critical role in risk identification and mitigation. Air mission briefers must have the knowledge and experience to ask the hard questions, should be current and qualified in the mission profiles they are to brief, and must be able to assess and mitigate risks for the mission and aircrew. For this reason, all air mission briefers must have PC status.

- Training. Pilot briefings are one of the best means for experienced aviators to share the knowledge they have acquired with junior

aircrews. Ensure your pilot briefings have the emphasis they need. Take a hard look at your PC and crew-chief training programs. 5. I have directed that aviation safety be the core theme of our next USAREUR Safety Council in March. The concepts we will discuss, however, are equally applicable to non-aviation units. In addition to the usual attendees, I expect all aviation commanders to brigade / divisional cavalry squadron / separate battalion level to participate (VTC is acceptable) in the council.

6. We are not fostering a "zero defect" or "risk adverse" environment. The rapidly changing and complex environments of our current operations require new, responsive, and innovative risk management. These changes will foster a command climate that promotes continued mission success through proper risk mitigation during mission planning and execution.

7. I want commanders to ensure this Bell Sends is distributed throughout their chains of command, including to all pilots and crew chiefs. Our renewed emphasis and upcoming publication of procedural changes will help ensure we continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.



Gen. B. B. Bell

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

'Chernobyl' children return to Brunssum

By Karen Segal

Thirty children from the affected region of Chernobyl, site of the 1986 nuclear reactor disaster, will arrive in Brunssum March 5 where they will live with Dutch host families and one American family until the end of April. For many of these children, ages 8-11, it may be their only opportunity to escape the badly-affected region around Chernobyl in their lifetimes. The children will arrive from Belarus where they live in relative poverty, have few clothes, and fewer toys.

The children are arriving as part of a unique Dutch program supported by local Christian churches that has been bringing groups of school children to the Netherlands for more than five years.

Some of you will recall the group of children who were here two years ago. Many parts of our NATO community reached out to the children, including the Belgian delegation which treated them to a day trip to Bokrijk, the POLAD's office which took them to a rodeo show, and members of the Netherlands Support Element (NSE) who each "adopted" a child for one special day at Kinderstad.

Help is again being sought to ensure that these children have a wonderful experience in Limburg.

Financial help: It will cost about •15,000 to bring the children on buses from Belarus. Contributions can be made to a girorekening account which has been established: #5065012, Hulp aan Tsernobytkinderen Zuid-Limburg

Clothing is desperately needed: Clothing that would fit a child aged 8-11, particularly winter gear is needed. Please leave the clothing donations, marked "Chernobyl," at the International Chapel, the Thrift Shop at Schinnen, in the "well" of the International School, or contact Karen Segal directly for pickup. Clothing is needed no later than the week after Carnival break: Feb. 14-20.

Russian speakers: If you speak Russian and can spare some time to spend with the children, please contact Karen Segal.

If you would like to sponsor any type of special activity for the children, again contact Karen Segal who will work with you.

Contact Segal, 31 45 564-2114 or jsegal_kpuschel@yahoo.com with any questions.

New Logo

The 254th Base Support Bn. transitions to U.S. Army Garrison, Schinnen Oct. 5, and needs a new logo. A logo design contest is open to everyone. Entry deadline is 4 p.m. Feb. 1, in room 215 of the headquarters building. Rules are: 1. Logo should contain elements of significance to

our heritage/region (i.e. landmarks, Tri-Border maps, flags, castles, mine towers, JFQ communication towers, NATO symbol, etc). 2. Logo must include the Schinnen community motto 'Community of Choice.' 3. Use only primary and secondary colors, red, blue and yellow. If you have an idea but are not feeling artistic, submit a written description of your idea. No logo will go unnoticed and prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places. Info: Connie Andrews, DSN 360-7438 or 31 46 443-7438.

Installation Access Control office hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-noon, and 1-4 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon. The office is closed weekends. Info: Master Sgt. Ronald Kirkemo, DSN 360-7423 or 31 46 443-7423.

AFAP Conference needs volunteers for the next AFAP conference March 10-11, at the Joint Forces Command International Chapel, Brunssum. For information call Sheilla Lee, DSN 360-7263 or 31 46 443-7263.

Alcohol and driving don't mix - The next few days "Carnaval" is celebrated in the Netherlands, especially in the Limburg area. There will be a lot of parties and street parades. Be careful, Don't Drink and Drive! If you drink beer or other alcohol, leave your car on the spot and call for a taxi. It is for your own safety and for the safety of others. Don't drink alcoholic drinks, is the best possible advice. However, if you have been drinking too much: go to a telephone and call for a taxi to bring you home or ask a non-drinker to drive. Have a wonderful "carnaval" in the Netherlands and Drive to Arrive!

254th BSB Triborder news

Remind yourself, 'It costs nothing to look'

By Kim Lowe

Last month, I took a cruise down the Nile River. The weather was warm, the monuments were awesome, and the merchants were persistent! They greeted us in the street, invited us into their shop, and reminded us that "It costs nothing to Look!"

Like an Egyptian Bazaar, "it costs nothing to look" at the Schinnen Thrift Shop. Like an Egyptian bazaar, we offer many unique items and household staples. We provide community newsletters and travel brochures. You may even find an 'Aladdin's Lamp!' The Thrift Shop is located in Building 24, next to the Post Office, the former Self Help Store, and is open Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-3 p.m., and Sunday noon-4 p.m.

We accept consignments by appointment, 31 46 443-7436. Due to space limitations, we restrict consignments to 10 items, five of which can be clothes. All items must

be in good condition with all parts. We do not accept 110 volt appliances, stuffed animals, and out-of-season items for consignment (you can donate these items). We consign items for 60 days and deduct 20 percent from the sale price as a consignment fee. Our consignors are paid by the 10th of the month for the previous month's sold items.

We also accept donations for the Thrift Shop or special programs such as: Iraqi children, stuffed animals and unbreakable toys; Chernobyl children, winter clothing for ages 8-11 (children are visiting local Dutch families); and the Kabul Project, clothes, shoes, toys, toiletries, household items, school supplies, and picture books... almost any unbreakable item we can put in a box!

The Thrift Shop is the primary fundraiser for the American Spouses' Club. We donate



Broderbund

our profits back to the Tri-Border community, including Army Community Services, International Youth Services, AFNorth International School, and the International Club Charity Committee. You can help us help the community by donating: Moving boxes and mailing tape for the Kabul Project; Canned sodas or baked goods for our volunteer staff and any amount of time, five minutes to mail boxes or one hour to help sort donations.

We particularly request volunteers from 2-3 p.m. on Wednesday-Friday to assist with recycling, when the sort center is open. For more information on how you can help, contact the Thrift Shop, 31 46 443-7436.

We are more than a store, we are a Community Service! Remember, it costs nothing to look!

Lowe is American Spouses Club Thrift Shop Liaison.

Tooth decay in young can be caused by baby bottle

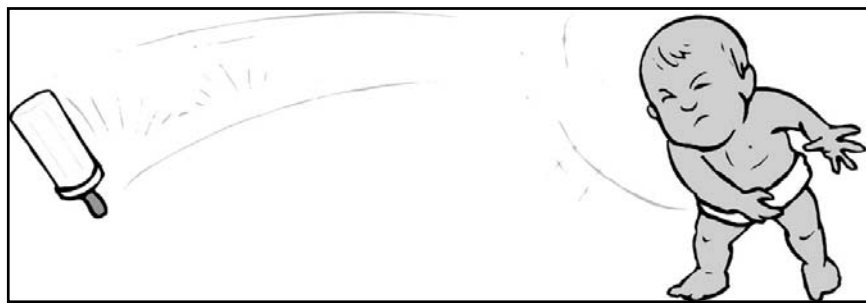
By Senior Airman Mejia Ventura

Taking good care of your children's teeth at an early age should be of great concern to you as a parent. None of us would harm our children's teeth and cause them severe pain intentionally, yet many are doing this without knowing it. In this article, you will learn about the dangers of Baby Bottle Tooth Decay and the simple steps you can take to prevent it.

So what is Baby Bottle Tooth Decay? Basically, it is decay in primary dentition caused by the prolonged and long-term exposure of your baby's teeth to liquids containing sugars such as milk, juice, soft drinks, or sugared drinks. The sugars found in these liquids are changed into acid which then starts to dissolve the teeth causing them to decay. Every time a child consumes a sugary liquid, acid attacks the teeth.

It is always tempting to use what ever it takes to quiet a fussy baby during the day or night. Habits such as dipping the pacifier in honey, sugar, or syrup are

used by some parents to quiet their children. These approaches can cost you dearly and put your child's teeth in great danger. The worst thing you can do is give your infant a sugary drink at nap or put him to bed with a sugar-containing bottle. It is like sending the baby to bed with a mouthful of candy. During sleep, the flow of saliva decreases allowing the liquids to linger for an extended period of time making the teeth more vulner-



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able to decay. Baby teeth are placeholders for permanent teeth and if they are lost too early, permanent teeth might come in too crowded or crooked. Also, your child may develop poor eating habits, develop speech prob-

lems, or damage developing teeth.

The good news is that there are steps to prevent Baby Bottle Tooth Decay.

- Never put your child to bed with a bottle containing sugary liquids. Gradually replace the bottle contents with water or a clean pacifier.
- Decrease time and frequency spent with bottle. Only give your baby a bottle during meals.
- After each feeding, use a washcloth or a piece of gauze to wipe the gums clean. After the first tooth erupts, use a brush.
- Teach your child to drink from a cup by the age of one. The liquid does not linger this way and the cup can not be taken to bed.

Remember early care can save lots of money in the future and help prevent unnecessary treatment for your child. Healthy baby teeth will usually result in healthy permanent teeth. If you have any concerns about your children's dental health, feel free to call our clinic to schedule a sick call appointment otherwise we will see them at the annual exam during the sponsor's birth month.

Resource material from the American Dental Association

254th BSB Local Calendar

Army Community Service - Finding Employment Workshop is Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; and a **Resume/Resumix workshop** is 2-4 p.m.; **Stress Management class**, Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.; **Anger Management class**, Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon; **Playmorning**, Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Schinnen Sports Center; **Managing Difficult Teenagers** is Jan. 28, 1-3 p.m.;

Child Safety is Feb. 2, 16, 23, and Mar. 2, 1-3 p.m., ACS conference room; **Relationships at a Distance, "Surviving Valentine's Day Alone,"** Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-noon, ACS, Bldg. 39, Yellow Ribbon Room; **"I've got that loving feeling,"** Part I is Feb. 2, 7-9 p.m., Part II is Feb. 8, 1.30-4 p.m.; AFTB Class, **"Follow the Leader,"** Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-1.30 p.m., ACS,

Bldg. 39, conference room; **Pre-Retirement Briefing**, Feb. 2, 9-10 a.m., ACS Resource Center, Bldg. 39/43; **Parent Education, Intervention Service Educator**, Feb. 16, 5-6 p.m., Child Development Center; **La Leche League**, breastfeeding support group, Feb. 23, 10-11 a.m., ACS, Bldg. 39/43, conference room; **Newcomer's Orientation Briefing**,

Feb. 25, 8.45 a.m.-3.30 p.m., ACS, Bldg. 39/43; **Foreign-Born Spouses Briefing**, learn more about American military culture and English, call for details on the next class. **Coffee Hour for Families of Deployed Soldiers** is Feb. 9 and 23, 10 a.m.-noon, ACS conference room. For info about any of the above call DSN 360-7500 or 31 46 443-7500.

Leisure Activities by Rita Hoefnagels

Jan. 29-30: Flea Market at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Open: Jan. 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Jan. 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: •3; children (6-12) •2. Info: 31 43 383-8383.

Thru Jan. 30: Art and Antique Weekend in "Grote Kerk", Marktstraat 13 in Naarden-Vesting (NL). An exclusive art and antique fair taking place in the center of a historic fortified city. Open: Jan. 27, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Jan. 28, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Jan. 29, 1-7 p.m.; Jan. 30, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: •12.50, including catalogue; children 13 and younger enter free. Info: 31 35 623-9695.

Jan. 30: PC Discount, computer fair at MECC in Maastricht (NL) with lots of video- and computer-games. Entry: •7. Info: 31 43 383-8383.

Feb. 3-6: National Art Deco Fair at "Grote Kerk" (church) in the center of The Hague (NL) with art and design from the period 1880-1980. Entry: •7. Open: Feb. 3, 3-9 p.m.; Feb. 4, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Feb. 5, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Feb. 6, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: 31 70 302-8630.

Feb. 6: Indoor Flea Market at "Beursgebouw" on Lardinoisstraat in Eindhoven (NL). Open: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: •3. Info: 31 40 246-3626.

PC Discount, computer fair at Groenordhallen in Leiden (NL) with lots of video- and computer-games. Info: 31 71 521-2521.

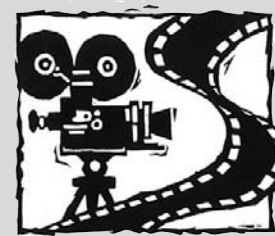
Feb. 10-13: "Tuinvaria", large garden fair at IJsselhallen in Zwolle (NL). Open: Feb. 10-11, noon-9 p.m. and Feb. 12-13, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Info: 31 38 421-1843.

Feb. 11-20: The largest car show in The Netherlands, **AutoRAI**, with all kinds of gorgeous cars can be found at RAI in Amsterdam (NL). Open weekdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and weekend, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry weekdays •14.50; weekends •16.50.

Thru Feb. 13: Nicholas and Alexandra Exhibition at Hermitage, Nieuwe Herengracht 14 in Amsterdam (NL). Tells the story of the last Tsar of Russia and his family by means of numerous personal belongings, pictures, and more. Entry: •6. Info: 31 20 530-8751.

Thru Sept. 4: Mummies, a spectacular exhibition of mummies at Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden (NL). Entry: •6; children (6-17) •5.50. Info: www.rmo.nl.

AFNorth Alliance Theater



Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. Bridget Jones: the Edge of Reason. Starring Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant. Rated R. London singleton Bridget Jones is happily dating lawyer Mark Darcy. Bridget's life gets complicated when former boss and flame Daniel arrives on the scene, having landed a job at Bridget's TV station.

Jan. 29, 5:30 p.m. National Treasure. Starring Nicolas Cage, Justina Bartha, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin hid a massive cache of gold during the Revolutionary War, and left clues of its whereabouts in the original drafts of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Gates sets out to crack the code that will lead him to the fortune.

8 p.m. Alexander. Starring Collin Farrell, Angelina Jolie. By the age of 32, Alexander the Great had the greatest empire the world had ever seen. The film chronicles his journey from youth to his lonely and mysterious death as a ruler of a vast state of Macedonia.

Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m. Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason.

254th BSB Triborder news

Forum discusses direction, goals



PHOTO: Sylvia Bowron

Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, 254th Base Support Bn. Commander, speaks to Soldiers, Army civilians and local national personnel at a symposium held Jan. 13 covering past, present and future.

Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, commander of the 254th Base Support Bn. hosted a Commander's Symposium Jan. 13 at Schinnen Sports Center. The symposium updated BSB personnel on events that occurred since the last meeting and update them of ongoing and future events, as well as provide general command information.

Richardson began the meeting with a welcome and a synopsis of the events the battalion has done since the last symposium. He congratulated all participants of the Mass Casualty Exercise held in October for their teamwork, and thanked them for making the training a success. The commander mentioned other significant events such as the merger of the Benelux Meteor/Heraut which began with the Oct. 22 issue and the Organizational Self-Assessment conducted October-December.

Richardson continued by complimenting all personnel for doing a terrific job supporting all 254th BSB's customers and highlighted the recent support provided for the deployment of the 598th Transportation Group, Rotterdam, and the Soldiers from Joint Forces Command Brunssum.

"What you do is important," Richardson stated. "You touch the lives of people you don't even know. Everything you do helps those soldiers downrange prepare and do their job better."

He continued the recap commenting on the successful transition of the guards at the gate from the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st of the 134th Field Artillery, who were part of Task Force Reaper Sentinel, to the Dutch Military Of Defense; the holiday community events held

for Military Family Month, Trunk or Treat, the Tree Lighting ceremony and the 254th BSB's Christmas Party. He concluded his re-cap by congratulating personnel for their contributions to a successful injury-free holiday season November-January.

Richardson then talked about the battalions' goals which all personnel are encouraged and empowered to work towards. "Our goals are: to develop and sustain a capable workforce; sustain positive host nation relations; implement an effective communication/information system and to practice sound stewardship of resources. All of this we'll do together," said Richardson. He continuously stressed the importance of good

customer service, and establishing and maintaining process improvement, providing community well-being as well as a safe and secure environment.

"The transition of the battalion to a standard garrison organization continues to go forward," Richardson said. "I know many of you have heard rumors about positions being eliminated and the potential loss of personnel. I assure you I will do all I can, and make every effort to, ensure no positions are eliminated and no one loses their job."

Richardson commented on some of the ideas received from the organizational self-assessment. Number one on the list was communication, and improving that communication, by ensuring the same interpretation of information is provided to all. The battalion's need of a good web page with updated information was mentioned in the assessment. "Currently, the battalion web page and the IMA-E web sites are undergoing a makeover by a private contractor to make them more effective and user-friendly," Richardson stated. That improvement of communication and the web page will assist in the cohesiveness of battalion Army personnel, civilians and local nationals. Good communication will also aid in the solution for another comment from the self-assessment which is to create an atmosphere of oneness – with one goal and one direction.

All organizations are comprised of different sections and teams working on their particular functions for the battalion's mission of support to its customers. One goal and one direction, along with good communication will ensure that each person's work is part of the battalion's

team effort for a successful mission. Richardson mentioned other key issues including more training opportunities and recognition of people who do things that are seemingly invisible or go unnoticed.

Richardson continued the symposium focusing on the future and where the battalion is going from this point. He highlighted the importance of identifying position training requirements for employees and targeting employee training shortfalls. "Good training will aid in productivity and in accomplishing mission requirements," said Richardson. Future training for the BSB encompasses Hazardous Waste Compliance Training, Monthly Emergency/Anti-terrorism Leader Training.

Other future events are the Army Family Action Plan, a 'Funday-Sunday' and a quarterly Town Hall meeting scheduled for Feb. 26. Richardson also emphasized focusing continued deployment support efforts on the 598th Transportation Group and the Soldiers of JFC Brunssum.

The Productivity Improvement Reviews were also re-emphasized by Richardson. The PIR formalizes the Army suggestion program by requiring the quarterly submission of ideas that result in a cost efficiency, upgrade in customer service or both. Richardson encouraged the 254th BSB workforce to submit ideas and briefly gave examples of where employees can get ideas for a PIR, how to submit an initiative and the award process. "Each quarter, awards will be given in three categories—most customer focused, most efficient and most creative," said Richardson. "Two hundred euros worth of coupons are awarded each quarter to the best idea in each of the three categories."

He continued with an overview of the accomplishments made in the units' transition to becoming an SGO and the next steps to accomplish. "So far we've completed our transition operations plan which has been submitted to the 80th Area Support Group and to the Installation Management Agency-Europe; we've established the Plans, Analysis and Integration office; re-designated directorate names and are conducting monthly IPRs."

Future steps to accomplish include receiving and implementing directorate templates received from IMA-E and designing a new logo as well as establishing a Directorate of Emergency Services. Richardson then highlighted the designing of the garrison logo by inviting personnel to enter the logo contest which is open to all BSB personnel and closes on Feb. 1. "Even if you aren't a good artist submit your ideas," said Richardson. "Even stick figures will do."

Richardson closed the symposium by thanking everyone for their support and contributions, and a brief question and answer session followed.

Tax planning now leads to faster refunds later

By Capt. Patrick L. Davis

U.S. taxpayers living overseas have until June 15 to file tax returns, so it may seem early to start thinking about taxes. However, taxpayers can take steps now to make life a lot easier when filing their taxes for 2004.

Collecting necessary forms and documentation is the most time-consuming step of tax return preparation. Taxpayers who collect information now will save headaches with their return and could be enjoying their refund checks much more quickly.

1. Gather Necessary Financial Documents. The most important document for filing an income tax return is the W2 Form, a statement the employer sends to the taxpayer, listing the total income earned and tax withheld. Employers mail W2s in January. W2s for military pay will also be available on-line. Most taxpayers will also receive a Form 1099 from banks, which lists interest earned from savings accounts. There are other forms for different types of income. All such forms and financial records should be kept in a file that is clearly marked.

2. Obtain a Power of Attorney from Your Spouse. If you are filing a joint return with your spouse, you will both need to sign the tax form. However, many overseas taxpayers have spouses still living in the United States. Even if you and your

spouse are living apart, you may still file a joint return. Taxpayers may sign tax returns for their spouses, but only if they have a valid power of attorney from their spouse granting them permission. This should be a Special Power of Attorney granting the power to sign 2003 joint tax returns or a completed and signed IRS Form 2848.



Broderbund

3. Obtain Social Security Numbers and Taxpayer Identification Numbers. All taxpayers and dependents listed on a tax form need either a Social Security Number (SSN) or Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). All United States citizens and residents eligible for SSNs must have one prior to filing tax returns. You can get a SSN by filling out Form SS-5 with the Social Security Administration.

If you recently changed your name, you must continue to file your taxes under your

former name until your SSN is updated to reflect your name change. You can use Form SS-5 to correct your name on the Social Security card as well. Form SS-5 and instructions are on-line at www.ssa.gov.

Not all taxpayers and dependents are eligible for a SSN. Nonresident aliens included on a tax form must have ITINs instead. Submit a completed Form W7 with your income tax return, mailed to the IRS, to apply for an ITIN. The forms and instructions are on-line at www.irs.gov.

4. Obtain Proof to Claim a Dependent. Only one taxpayer may claim a dependent for any single tax year. Both parents filing separate returns may wish to claim their children on their tax returns. The IRS will assume the parent with physical

custody is entitled to claim the child for a tax deduction. The non-custodial parent may still claim the child's exemption instead, but only with supporting documentation. Such proof could be a Form 8332 or similar signed document from the custodial parent or a final divorce decree giving the non-custodial parent the unconditional right to claim the child's exemption.

Taxpayers with tax related questions or problems should contact their nearest legal assistance office, either at the Netherlands Law Center in Treebeek, the Netherlands, or the Northern Law Center at SHAPE, Belgium. Beginning in February, both law centers will also be offering tax preparation services free of charge to service members, military retirees, DA civilians, DOD contractors, and their dependents. However, before heading to the tax center in February, make sure you have all necessary documents, which may require action now.

For more information call DSN 364-6204 or 31 45 563-6204.

Davis is Chief of Client Services, Netherlands Law Center.

Tri-border News Notes

The 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office will send a copy of the Community Events Calendar and/or Tri-border News Notes directly to any customer who asks to be included in a 254th BSB update/news e-mail distribution list. To sign up, visit the 254th BSB Public Affairs Office or send an e-mail to lauri.garcia@benelux.army.mil include your name and DEROS and we'll be glad to e-mail this information directly to your work, home or both.

254th BSB Triborder news

Put on your mask and join the fun

One of the most important local events in the Dutch provinces of Limburg and Noord-Brabant is without doubt Carnival, or Fashing (Germany). Three days long, people will disguise themselves, go out, eat, drink and be very merry. Carnival is an intense celebration which ends on Ash Wednesday when Lent starts.

Although it is thought that Carnival was originally a religious festival, this is not totally true. Before Christ was born, people would celebrate the start of a new year at the beginning of spring and for the longest time February was considered the last month of the year. The New Year would start by celebrating the fact that the sun had cast away the dark winter.

The chronicles of Babylon (2600 B.C.) tell us about the sacrificial death of the king every year during the New Year's celebrations. The king actually died for his people's sins in order for them to start the New Year with a clean slate. To prevent kingship becoming a one-year affair, it was decided to have a temporary king during the festivities. The temporary king would either be a terminally ill person or a criminal condemned to death and who would live as a king for a short time.

This reminds us a little bit of the Prince Carnival today, who keeps the keys (authority) of the town for the duration of Carnival (three days). The difference is of course that the Prince will not die a sacrificial death for his people's sins.

The Christian church at first opposed these heathen rituals, but they learned that the integration of these rituals into the Christian church would be a better way of dealing with heathen beliefs. In the year 1091, Ash Wednesday became the official begin-

ning of the forty day long Lenten season. We find here also an explanation for the name Carnival: during Lent people will do penance for their sins by fasting and the Latin "Carne Vale" means farewell to flesh or meat!

At the end of the 17th century, the Reformation started to preach soberness and was of course totally against these excessive celebrations. Because of this the Catho-

lic Church had to change their opinion and by the beginning of the 18th century, Carnival had ceased to exist. Carnival, as it is celebrated today in the Provinces of Noord-Brabant and Limburg, originates from the German Rhineland with its cradle in Cologne. This city, occupied by Napoleon's Army from 1794 until 1815, and annexed in 1815 by Prussia, had many inhabitants who could not forget Cologne's glorious past when the emperor visited the city many times. Each time he was welcomed with great pomp and circumstance. So with this in mind, the very first parade of Carnival, or Fashing as it is known in Germany, was organized in 1823. The parade had to be equal to the glorious entries of the Habsburg emperors in the old days. Prince Carnival still wears a Renais-

sance costume, referring to the emperors, and is accompanied by soldiers in 17th century uniforms. However, at the time of the first parade these uniforms were really meant as a spoof on the occupying Prussian Forces. Other costumes were added as well. Characters from the Comedia dell'Arte from Venice like the jester; domino and clown were very popular and became quickly an inspiration. To preserve it all for posterity everything was documented and the very first Carnival newspaper was published in 1825. Little by little all kinds of elements were added. Carnival associations were founded and medals presented to special citizens and participants of Carnival. This again started as persiflage on the Prussian's rain of medals and military behavior. In 1827 the decision was made that members had to wear a hat in order to distinguish themselves from non-members. The majorettes or "Tanzmariechen" were added as a spoof on the camp followers.

From Cologne, Carnival spread all over the Rhineland and the Dutch provinces of Noord-Brabant and Limburg and Carnival associations were founded everywhere. In 1839 a group of shopkeepers in Maastricht established the "Societeit Momus". They wanted to make Carnival an unforgettable fest, because a well organized popular fest would benefit the city's economy. Care for the poor was also one of their objects and they organized other festivities which had nothing to do with Carnival.

Nowadays, almost every village has its own Carnival association, and the majority of cities even have more than one. The Carnival association, in fact organizes the festivities for the city, village or district. It consists of a "Raad van Elf", Council of Eleven, which is presided by the president

or lord and they are responsible for the activities during the Carnival season. They choose a new prince every year, publish the Carnival newspaper and organize and escort the parade. The Council also visits Senior-Citizen homes, schools and other associations and they give out medals and coins to persons who have made themselves useful during Carnival.

At the beginning of the festivities, mayors will hand over the keys of their town/city to the prince, which makes the prince the ruler of the city, village or district for the duration of the festivities. The prince has a representative function. He will draw up eleven regulations current for the duration of his reign and these will be proclaimed at every possible opportunity.

The highlight of Carnival is without doubt the parade. Participants often work all year round to build a float/wagon or to create costumes. Every group tries their best to appear in a most original way and almost every local band participates.

Then after the parade, the street festivities will start. Some people are in costumes, others not, but they all sing and dance in the streets and pubs. Many shops will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, and special events will take place in the cities, like Carnival Band contests.

On Tuesday at midnight, Carnival is over. Every city has a different tradition of ending the festivities. Sittard, for instance, will bury a mask and Maastricht will throw a paper dummy, called "t Mooswief" (vegetable woman), in the river Maas. These are just two of the many traditional endings.

For everybody who celebrates Carnival it has a different meaning. For the participants in the parade it means a lot of work, for others it means three days of celebrating without the stress of work. Many act in a way they "normally" wouldn't dare and there are also those who will have to clean away the mess.

Well, so many people, so many minds. But the south of the Netherlands; Rheinland-Westfalen, Eifel and many more places in Germany and Belgium will have their annual Carnival or Fashing again, so put on your mask and celebrate!! Carnival happens only once a year! Alaa!!

Resources: Carnival Ontmaskerd? by Drs. Theo Fransen and Alle Gekheid op een Stokje by Limburgs Volkskundig Centrum.



Princess Pauline Vroemen and Prince Ron Holland lead a conga line at the 254th BSB's Carnival festivities last year.

FILE PHOTO: Sandy Aubrey

Where to find your own Carnival

Carnival or Fashing is an important tradition and this year is celebrated Feb. 6-8. Shops in Limburg and parts of Germany close while pubs and bars stay open until at least 3 a.m. The streets overflow with revelers.

If held up by a parade, don't try to cut through the revelry. It could cause a serious accident and it shows a lack of respect for host nation cultural events.

If enroute to the 254th BSB and a parade is in progress, park the car and enjoy the festivities. But remember to be safe and don't drink and drive! The parades at Schinnen are Feb. 7 and 8, between 1 and 5 p.m., and could delay access to the base.

Here is the parade schedule for towns in South-Limburg and unless otherwise specified, all parades start at 2:11 p.m.

Beek – Children's parade Feb. 6;

Light Parade (illuminated) Feb. 6, 7 p.m.; Main parade Feb. 7.

Bingelrade – Feb. 5.

Bocholtz – Feb. 7.

Born – Feb. 6.

Brunssum – Children's parade Feb. 5; Main parade Feb. 7.

Doenrade – Feb. 5.

Eygelshoven – Feb. 6.

Geleen – Main parade Feb. 6; children's parade Feb. 7.

Heerlen – Children's parade Feb. 5; Main parade Feb. 6. Both start at 1 p.m.

Hoensbroek – Children's parade Feb. 5; Main parade Feb. 7.

Jabeek – Feb. 8.

Kerkrade – Children's parade Feb. 5; Main parade Feb. 7. Both start at 1:11 p.m.

Maastricht – Main parade Feb. 6 (begins 1:44 p.m.). Children's parade Feb. 7 (begins 2:33 p.m.).

Margraten – Feb. 6.

Meerssen – Main parade Feb. 7;

Children's Feb. 8.

Merkelbeek – Feb. 6.

Munstergeleen – Main parade Feb. 7; Children's Feb. 8.

Neerbeek – Feb. 8.

Nieuwenhagen – Feb. 8.

Nieuwstadt – Main parade Feb. 7; Children's Feb. 8.

Noorbeek – Main parade Feb. 6; Children's Feb. 8.

Nuth – Feb. 6.

Obbicht – Feb. 6.

Oirsbeek – Feb. 6.

Puth – Children's parade Feb. 5; Main parade Feb. 6.

Schaesberg – Feb. 8.

Schinnen – Main parade Feb. 7; Children's Feb. 8.

Schinveld – Children's parade Feb. 6; Main parade Feb. 7.

Simpelveld – Main parade Feb. 6, begins at 1:33 p.m.

Sittard – Children's parade Jan. 30, begins 1:33 P.M.; Main parade Feb. 6, begins 12:55 p.m.

Spaubeek – Feb. 6.

Stein – Children's parade Jan. 30; Main parade Feb. 6.

Susteren – Main parade Feb. 7; children's Feb. 8.

Sweikhuizen – Feb. 8.

Thorn – Feb. 7.

Ubach over Worms – Feb. 7.

Valkenburg – Children's parade Feb. 6 (begins 3:11 p.m.); Main parade Feb. 7 (begins 1:30 p.m.).

Voerendaal – Feb. 6.

Wijlre – Feb. 6.

Wijnandsrade – Feb. 6.

Activities

Geleen has a Carnival brass band contest in the center Feb. 8, 2:11 p.m.

Maastricht: The Maastricht Prince Carnival and his retinue will hold a reception at the city's train station Feb. 5, 1:11 p.m. At 1:55 p.m. they will march to the Market Square where the Prince will lay a

wreath at the statue of "t Mooswief" (Cabbage Woman). There's also a Carnival brass band contest Feb. 8, 2:11 p.m. on the Vrijthof in the center. Here the end of Carnival will be conducted as well, starts 11:55 p.m.

Sittard has a Carnival brass band contest Feb. 7, 3 p.m. at the Market Square. On Feb. 8, 2:11 p.m., groups of costumed people give out oranges to kids and adults who yell: "Appelsiene, Appelsiene" (oranges, oranges). **Aachen, Cologne, Düsseldorf** and other large cities in Germany stage parades, called "Rosenmontag Zug", Feb. 7. They all start around noon. **Aachen** also has a Children's parade Feb. 6.

Maaseik in Belgium has a clowns' parade in the center of town Feb. 8, 7 p.m.

NSA Brussels Calendar

Toddler Playgroup meets Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon, CYS Multipurpose room. Info: DSN 368-9684.

Multi Crafts Center: *Basic Ceramic Classes* (by appointment only), Jan. 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. *Basic ceramic pouring* sessions are Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27 and March 6, 13, 20, and 27, 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m.; *Jewelry-making Classes*, every Wednesday, 6 p.m. Cost is \$12 plus materials; *Framing Classes*, every Thursday, 2-6 p.m. Info: DSN 368-9629.

Wood Shop Safety Classes are Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2-6 p.m., cost is \$11. Info: DSN 368-9629.

Auto Craft Shop offers a vehicle winter class Jan. 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.. Reservations: DSN 368-9743.

Sports and Fitness - Adult basketball league, Mondays and Wednesdays through Mar. 25; ongoing, self-paced Run For Life program, patches awarded for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 750 and 1000 miles; individual MEDEX training. Info: 02 717-9667.

Education Center is available for consultation at the U. S. Embassy Brussels Community Liaison Office Feb. 4, noon-2 p.m., as a service to Tri-Mission personnel;

CLEP, DANTES, ECE, and other tests given alternate Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m., with one week's prior registration, available as needed, with a minimum of three examinees required. Testing at SHAPE is possible at other times.

Three Star Lounge, Bldg. 1, NSA - Feb 3, 7 p.m. Movie Night; Feb 4, 5-9 p.m. Right Arm Night; Feb 6, 7 p.m. Super Bowl Party; Feb 11, 25, 9-12 p.m. Dart Night; Feb 18, 7-9 p.m., Pool Tournament; Feb 19, 8-11 p.m. Mardi Gras Party; Feb. 25, 8-10 p.m. Country and Western; Feb. 26, 8-11 p.m. Salsa Night. Info: DSN 368-9822.

Sweetheart Banquet - Marriage enrichment class and dinner, Feb. 4, 6:30-9 p.m., NSA Chapel, Fellowship Hall. Info: Carol Richardson, DSN 368-9783.

Parenting Class - Sibling Rivalry, Feb. 7, 10 a.m.-noon, NSA Chapel, Fellowship Hall. Info: DSN 368-9783

Valentines Dance for adults only, 7-9 p.m., Three Star Lounge, Bldg. 1, NSA. Info: DSN 368-9822

Metro Madness Outing - Explore the public transportation system in Brussels, Feb. 18, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., ACS. Bldg. 4, top floor. Sign up: DSN 368-9729.

AFAP Staff Training - Feb. 22.

Going in circles

Lowery Begay performs a hoop dance Dec. 1 at the International Community Club on SHAPE. Begay eventually had many more hoops spinning simultaneously in different directions than the two seen here. Begay, a Navajo; Laura Bushyhead, a Cheyenne-Creek; Harry Tofpi, a Kiowa, Sac and Fox; Jason Bender, a Shawnee; Chuck Duncan, a Potawatamie; Jay Roberts, a Chickasaw; and Boe Harris, an Ojibwa Dakota, toured U.S. military installations in Europe during Native American Heritage Month.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Lunch time session, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Evening session, 6-8 p.m., DCA conference room, Bldg. 4, top floor. Sign up required: DSN 368-9643.

Multi Craft Easter market - Feb. 25, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., NSA Multi Crafts Center. Info: DSN 368-9629.

Headstart - French language ori-

entation course, Feb. 28-March 11, 9 a.m.-noon, NSA Education Center. Sign up: DSN 368-9704.

V.A. Education briefing is March 6, noon-1 p.m., at NSA Community Computer Lab, Building 1, at the Education Center. Register: DSN 368-9704 or 02 717 9704, or email Joseph.Heinlein@benelux.army.mil.

NSA Chapel Sundays: Sunday School, all ages, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Protestant worship, 10:45 a.m.; Gospel Sunday School, 11 a.m. at NSA conference room; Gospel service starts 12:30 p.m.; Men of the Chapel meet first Saturday each month, 9 a.m., and Women of the Chapel meet Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon, in Fellowship Hall.

254th BSB Local Calendar

'Love and Logic' - Army Community Services (ACS) holds a couples communication course, "Love and Logic". The course is Jan. 25-26, 6-8 p.m.; Feb. 12, and Feb. 19, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at ACS conference room. Attendees learn skills to enhance and promote better communication. Info: 31 46 443-7367.

Scuba Diving classes - Mondays, 3:15-6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8:30-9:15 a.m., at the indoor swimming pool. Info: DSN 364-3172.

Water Aerobics - Mondays, 5:30-7 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8:30-9:15 a.m., at the indoor swimming pool. Info: 49 2451 71 7206.

Schinnen Sports and Fitness Center offers classes for fitness, toning or getting rid of the holiday 'leftovers.' Join in Tae-bo Kickboxing/Pilates, Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Step Aerobics, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-7 p.m.; and Body Balance, Thursdays, 5-6 p.m. Classes are in the sports center. Info: DSN 360-7560 or 31 46 443-7560.

Heerlen Hospital labor/delivery tour - Registration deadline is Feb. 22. The March 7 tour begins 12:30 p.m., is hosted by New Parents Education and Support Program. Transportation is provided by ACS. Info: DSN 360-7395 or 31 46 443-7395.

JFC Arts and Crafts Center: Basic Ceramic Painting and Dry Brush Painting, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Creative Memories Workshop/Scrapbooking, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Beginner Ceramic Pouring, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon and 6-7 p.m.; Gem Tree Class, Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m.; Fine Arts Class, Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon; Call DSN 364-2454 for an appointment and to register. Fly Fishing/Fly Tying class, Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m., on a drop-in basis. Info: DSN 364-2454.

New Parents Support group hosts OB Orientation, Pre-Natal Education classes Feb. 1, March 1, and April 5, 10 a.m.-noon, at GK Clinic Conference Room. Register: DSN 360-7335 or 31 46 443-7335.

Parents Night Out is Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, May 20 and June 17, 7-11 p.m. A Parent's Advisory Council meeting is Feb. 16, time TBA. Info: DSN 364-3816

or 364-2575.

Gold to Green Program application deadline is April 1. The program assists Soldiers in completing their college education and becoming a commissioned officer. Applications are available at Treebeek Education Center administration office. Info: Tom Kruse DSN 364-6111/6041.

Dutch Headstart Classes, free for military, civilian, and family members at Treebeek Education Center, offer basic language instruction, local customs, and general "get around" information, Jan. 31-Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration closes Jan. 24. Info: DSN 364-6041 or 045 563-604.

OB Orientation new date - every first Tuesday of the month. Next orientation is Feb. 1, 10 a.m.-noon, GK Clinic, conference room. Info: DSN 360-7500.

Army Career and Alumni Program - ACAP course, Feb. 8-9, 8.30 a.m.-4 p.m., Treebeek Education Center, DSN 360-7500.

Family Bowling, Feb. 6, 1-3 p.m., Schinnen Bowling Center.

BOSS meetings: Feb. 10, 24 at 2 p.m., JFC, U.S. Delegation Bldg., DSN 364-3748

Arts and Crafts Festival is Feb. 27, 2-6 p.m. JFC Arts and Crafts, Bldg. 39, conference room. DSN 364-2454.

Baggers wanted - Schinnen Commissary urgently needs additional temporary baggers ages 14 and up and must be able to lift at least 10 pounds. Hours are flexible. Call Monica, 046 420-0960.

The Alliance Theatre Group, JFC (AFNorth Brunssum, auditions "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney and "Plaza Suite" by Neil Simon, Jan. 16-17, 6 p.m., at the Alliance Theater in Brunssum. Five females and 6 males, between 20-70 years of age are needed. No preparations necessary. "Love Letters" is presented during a Valentine's weekend celebration, Feb. 11-12, 8 p.m.; and Feb. 13, 6 p.m., in the Brit Hall between Geilenkirchen and JFC (AFNorth) in Brunssum. For directions and info, please go to <http://www.allianceplayers.com>. Questions: info@allianceplayers.com.

Tax office opens soon - Netherlands Law

Center, Tax Assistance Office, opens Jan. 31. Appointments can be scheduled beginning Jan. 24. If schedule permits, walk-in clients can be seen. Appointment, or info: Sgt. 1st Class Alfred Cornelius, DSN 364-6204 or 31 45 563-6204.

The Self Service Supply Center (or Uncle Sam's Store) is closed for inventory Jan. 30 - Feb. 4.

The 52 MDG Optometrist sees patients at Geilenkirchen clinic Jan. 24-28. Call the appointment line after 1 p.m., 49 2451 99-3200. The provider sees active duty patients from the local GSU's at GK to save the drive to Spangdahlem. Deployers who have a prescription less than a year old, and who need chemical warfare glasses, can see the technician while he/she is at GK.

The African American History Month Celebration Dinner Banquet and Dance is Feb. 26, 8 p.m. The dance, presented by the Benjamin F. Luke Lodge No. 127 offers an open food buffet at 8:30 p.m. Special presentations follow dinner and dancing begins at 9:30 p.m. For location and ticket info call: *AFNorth*, Carlos Ramos, 31 64 609-7159; *Schinnen*, Harold Anderson, 31 46 443-7555; *Geilenkirchen*, Benjamin Luke, 49 2452 1860.

Volunteers to be recognized - Army Community Services holds the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 19, 4-6 p.m. Info: Teri Ryan, DSN 360- 7451 or 31 46 443-7451.

GK Life Skills Clinic holds workshop - The Tri-Border Region Integrated Delivery System has a one-day relationship workshop at Geilenkirchen Chapel March 12, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch refreshments are available and couples may find lunch on their own. Pre-registration is required. Child care is available by appointment only. Registration or info: 49 245 199-3378.

SATO Travel - *Book official travel early:* Personnel performing official travel such as COT/RAT leave, TDY, PCS this summer, are urged to book flights even if you do not have orders. Those who expect to PCS with pets, need to provide the size and weight of the kennel including the pet, the age, gender and breed of your pet. *The SATO office*

has new summer brochures and offers package deals with departure to Amsterdam, Brussels, Düsseldorf and Maastricht. Info: DSN 360-7570 or visit the SATO office.

Sort Center open Saturdays - The 254th Base Support Bn. SORT Center is now open every Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and 1:30-4 p.m., for disposal of: paper, cardboard, newsmagazines, metal cans, scrap metal, glass, plastic bottles, wood, old clothes and shoes, electronic waste, and household hazardous waste. During normal hours, we recommend U.S. citizens drive to the SORT Center and empty recyclables in the appropriate containers. Personnel not authorized overseas housing support are prohibited from disposing waste at any location on Schinnen without the written approval of the BSB commander. Info: DPW Environmental Management Office, DSN 360-7283 or 31 46 443-7283. The SORT Center is on Queen Juliana Street. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9-10 a.m., and 2-3 p.m.; and now Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and 1:30-4 p.m.

Retirees use of APO mail facilities - Military retirees in the Netherlands are now authorized to use APO mail facilities called R-Box. While there are restrictions as to what cannot be sent, this 254th BSB initiative provides a valuable service to military retirees and family members. Retirees who use this program receive their mail at the post office in Building 24a, 90th Postal Co., Schinnen, next to the commissary. Info: 046 443-7279. You may also contact Ron Holland, your Retirement Services Officer, at 046 443-7320. The use of APO mail services is only for U.S. military retirees who are permanent residents in the Netherlands.

254th BSB Shuttle Bus Service - Lindetours of Voerendaal is responsible for airport shuttle service to or from Maastricht, Brussels or Amsterdam airports for U.S. Service Members and DOD employees under PCS, TDY, RAT, IPCOT and COT orders. If travel is delayed, contact Schinnen MP desk as soon as possible, DSN 314 360-7555 or 31 46 443-7555, to reduce waiting charges and allow for a smoother transition. The MPs will reschedule the shuttle.

SHAPE / Chièvres Local Calendar

Want to be a Crosseur? “Crossage” is a very popular game played on the streets in Chièvres and neighboring villages on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 9, noon until sunset. The game is played in teams and consists in hitting a wooden ball with a club toward a given target whereas the opposite player will push back the ball. The game is open to everyone. If you would like to participate, make up a “unit” team or a team of U.S. military, civilians and host nation personnel, contact the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office, DSN 361-5694 for more information.

The U.S. National Prayer Breakfast is observed in the SHAPE and Chièvres communities Feb. 10, 7 a.m., at SHAPE Officer’s Club. Guest speaker is Chaplain (Col.) Ronald Strong, IMA-E Command Chaplain. Dress is duty uniform. Info: DSN 361-5888.

Entertainment Centre News — Adult Acting Classes for those 15 years of age and above are Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., cost is • 20 for 12 sessions; *Playwriting Classes* are Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m., class will explore writing for the screen as well as the stage, cost is •20 for 12 sessions; *Children’s Theatre Classes* are Thursdays 4-5 p.m., for ages 5-9, and Fridays 4-5:30 p.m. for ages 9-12. Cost is •8 for 12 sessions. *Salsa Dance Classes*, every Monday and Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., at the IC Club, cost is •10 per couple, •5 per single per class. Beginners and advanced students welcome. *SHAPE Players present “The Food Chain,”* Feb. 23-27, 7:30 p.m. Cost is 8• for adults over 17. This play is rated R for adult themes and language. Info: DSN 423-3312.

Weight-loss support group meets Wednesdays at Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base, and Thursdays at SHAPE Healthcare Facility, 9-9:30 a.m. Info: Rebecca Campbell, DSN 423-5948.

Glaucoma screenings Jan. 29, 8-10 a.m., at SHAPE Healthcare Facility in the optometry clinic. Glaucoma is an eye disorder that can cause blindness if not treated. Approximately three million Americans have the disease and 500,000 are blind from it. Glaucoma occurs usually in adults over age 40 with African-Americans 15 times more susceptible to the disease. Info: DSN 423-5899.

SHAPE Trips and Tours: Luxembourg, Jan. 29; Monschau and Eupen Chocolate Factory, Feb. 4-6; London weekend, Feb. 5-12; Skiing in Austria, Feb. 8; Disneyland Paris/Disney Studios, Feb 10; Ice Skating in Tournai, Belgium, March 25-April 2; Caribbean Cruise, April 1-6. For more information, contact the

Morale, Welfare and Recreation office, 065 44 3884/8136.

Take the Train class is Jan. 28, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Meets at ACS, Building 318, SHAPE.

Newcomer’s Briefing and Take the Bus class, new times - Newcomer’s Brief, Feb. 9, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Hotel Le Maisières; Take the Bus class, Feb. 11, 1:30-5 p.m. Sign up at ACS: DSN 423-4332.

Cultural Adaptation Trip Feb. 12, 8.30 a.m.-5 p.m., Free trip to Brussels with introduction to Belgian culture. Sign up: DSN 423-4332.

SHAPE Language Center – New student enrollment is Jan. 31, Spring term starts Feb. 14. Info: DSN 423-4971.

French Headstart Class, space-available free language introduction class, Feb. 14-25, 1:30-4:30 p.m., SHAPE Education Center, Bldg. 212, Room 130. Sign up: DSN 423-3466.

Rendez-Vous with French Language, Feb. 15, 9.30-noon, Hotel Le Maisières. Free introduction to the French language and culture with tips how to avoid misunderstandings. Sign up: DSN 366-6252.

Anger Management Class – Two four-day classes are scheduled Tuesdays, Feb. 8-22 and March 1-22, 9-10 a.m., **Learn About Belgium** is three half-day classes, Feb. 14, 15 and 17, time TBA. Info: DSN 423-4269.

SHAPE Officers’ Club hosts a St. Valentine’s Dinner, Feb. 12, 7 p.m. Info: DSN 423-4233.

Active Parenting Class, Feb. 2, 9, 10 a.m.-noon; **Victim Advocate Volunteer class**, every Thursday, 10 a.m.; both at ACS, Bldg. 318. Info: DSN 423-4352.

Transiting Service Members - Replacing your Benefits, new ACS class, Feb. 15, 9-10.30 a.m., ACS, Bldg. 318, SHAPE. Register: DSN 423-4824.

BOSS Meetings, Feb. 3 and 17, 1:30 p.m., Community Activity Center, SHAPE.

Prime Time Lounge - Super Bowl Party, Feb. 6, 8 p.m. Watch the game on a big screen TV and get a chance to win a DVD player or CD/MP3 player while you snack on nachos, shrimp baskets and buffalo wings. Info: DSN 361-5540. **Karaoke Night** every Friday and **Country Night** every second Saturday of the month, 8:30 p.m. **Lunch buffet and sandwiches** Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Not enough time to eat in, how about take out? Call DSN 361-6245. Prime Time Lounge is on Daumerie Caserne and evening opening hours are Wednesday-Friday, 5 p.m., and Saturday/Sunday, 7 p.m.

SHAPE Arts and Crafts Center has *Pre-Lenten break children’s classes* Feb. 7-11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; *Wood Turning on the Lathe*




PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Hello, Dolly

Jan Nowowiejski offers a new doll to a young girl in an Ath, Belgium group home Dec. 22 for a welcoming kiss. The visit was one of three made the same day in which a French-speaking Père Noël distributed presents to kids who might have a merry, but not especially bountiful, Christmas.


(for beginners and advanced), Feb 8, 15, 22, 6-9 p.m. Info: DSN 423-4680. *Wood shop hours* are Tuesday-Wednesday, 5:30-9 p.m.; Saturday, noon-5 p.m.

Chièvres Air Base Fitness Center, new hours, Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Environmental training - All 80th ASG organizations and tenant activities are assigned to participate in the Environmental Management System (EMS) implementation. It is mandatory that at this EMS implementation step every director, branch chief, shop leader or any other key leader participate in the EMS awareness training and then trains his staff. Nevertheless, training is open to any 80th ASG military or civilian employee and leaders are encouraged to send their staff. Courses are in French 8:30 a.m.-noon; and in English 1:30-5 p.m. Training is 3.5 hours long at DPW Conference Room, Building 20006. Training days are Jan. 28, and Feb. 2-4. All members will receive reference materials and consultant support. A training certificate will be provided to you once the course is completed, which will be checked during next External Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS) inspection at the end of April. Please email the Environmental Management Office the date and language of the session that you or your staff will attend: Jeanpierre.pigeolet@us.army.mil. Info: DSN 361-5704.


American Red Cross, SHAPE - CPR/FA Classes provide training in cardiac, choking and respiratory emergencies for adults, children and infants. Training includes instruction in Basic First Aid. Meets Jan. 29, 8:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Feb. 15-16, 5:30-9:30

p.m.; Feb. 26, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; March 8-9, 5:30-9:30 p.m.; March 22-23, 5:30-9:30 p.m. *First Aid /CPR/AED Instructor* trains candidates to conduct American Red Cross CPR, AED, First Aid and Workplace Wellness courses, TBA. *Babysitter’s Training* prepares teens for the responsibilities of providing basic care and supervision to infants and children during their important developmental years. Meets Jan. 15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; January 26-28, 4-6 p.m.; Feb. 22-24, 4-6 p.m.; March 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. *Pet First Aid program* teaches pet owners prompt, effective actions and care that will safeguard the life of an injured pet. Meets Feb. 5, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Feb. 18, 4-8 p.m. *Life Guard Training* is a comprehensive course that prepares participants for the rigors of lifeguarding. This new program incorporates the latest in life-saving instructions using a new streamlined format. TBA. *Life Guard Instructor course* provides training to individuals who have an understanding of life guarding and water safety and wish to train new lifeguards. TBA. *HIV/AIDS Awareness and Instructor Training* gives critical information about this epidemic and how to prevent it. Please contact the Red Cross office. Together We Prepare is a lifesaving presentation, now available upon request, which is filled with information on preparing for natural or manmade disasters. Together with the Red Cross you can better prepare your family and community in the event of a disaster. American Red Cross, in Building 318, SHAPE, DSN 423-4008, 065 44-4008, RedCross@benelux.army.mil



Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates							
Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
Jan. 31	Feb. 11	Feb. 28	March 11	March 28	April 8	April 25	May 6
Feb. 14	Feb. 25	March 14	March 25	April 11	April 22	May 9	May 20

About Us



Meteor-Heraut

The *Meteor-Heraut* is the authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under AR 360-1 for 80th Area Support Group personnel. Editorial content is provided by the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office and the 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 80th Area Support Group. The *Meteor-Heraut* is published twice per month. Circulation is 3,000. Our mailing address is Meteor-Heraut, HQ 80th ASG, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068-27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 0032. Email address: meteor@benelux.army.mil

Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the Meteor-Heraut.

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- Neither the *Meteor-Heraut* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered. Everything advertised must be available for purchase, use or patronage, without discrimination.

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Deadline
Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

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High Fivers improve grade point average

Students at SHAPE American School spiked their Grade Point Average last semester by at least .5 more than the previous semester and are now "High-Fivers," including:

In grade 11, Nathalie Desourdie, Lukas Doubravsky, Lisa Taylor, Kara Kappenman, and Suzanne Sheffield.

In grade 10, Per Grumstad, Elin Agren, Kirsten Melien, Timothy Anderson, Dyan Gonzales, Jan Luksa, Eszter Nemeth, and Dimitrios Tsiakalos.

In grade 9, Frida Estensen, Nora Jahr, Cristina Aznar, Spencer Leftwich, Stephanie Lujan, Angelica Spurigo, Hedda Estensen, Andrew Augustyn, Peder-Christian Blokda Pedersen, Jada Urch, Jazmine Washington, Marek Jozwiak, Olivera Kostovska, and Mihaly Recsei.

In grade 8, Alexandra Tsagatakis, Jordan Booher, David Novak, Fernando Barron de los Santos, Elizabeth Gaiani, Pablo Lewicki Basanta, and Matthew McCune.

In grade 7, Taveron Smith, Buse Berksun, Andero Rekkand, Inmaculada Labrado, Preston Repman, and Elmashan Gokesaoglu.



PHOTO: Karla Biggs

SHAPE students reach out to tsunami victims



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Megan England, a junior at SHAPE American High School, prints greeting cards Jan. 21 in the school's art room. Students are selling the cards to raise money for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

By Rick Haverinen

Students at SHAPE American School, in particular, Hayley High School got creative to help far-away disaster victims of the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

"When we got back to school (after the holiday break) some of my students mentioned that they were interested in doing something," said art teacher Bill Root, "but one stu-



Root

dent in particular, Hayley (Heineken) was very interested in getting something going."

Heineken, a junior, learned about the disaster the day after it happened on the TV news.

"Just seeing the death toll jump by thousands a day got everyone's at-

tention," Heineken said.

Heineken said many of her friends immediately wanted to do something to help.

"I think that was everyone's first reaction," Heineken said, "just seeing the devastation and that so many people could lose their lives that quickly was the driving force."

A group of Root's art students created several innovations, including the sale of blue ribbons for donations.

"Beth Corcoran (a senior) came up with this idea about 10 a.m. and we wanted to have blue ribbons made by lunchtime," Root said. "We went to the flower shop on SHAPE, and they gave us a bunch of blue ribbon. We made a lot of money in one lunch hour."

"Seeing the reaction and how kids were being so generous in just one day and how everyone was so interested in helping, was amazing," Heineken said.

So far the students have collected and received pledges for more than \$4,000.

"We saw we were getting a lot of donations, and that spurred us on to come up with some other ideas," Root said. "Since Valentine's Day is coming close, we came up with 'Valentines for Victims,'" Root said, "so we're making hand-printed cards and we've been offering those in pack-

ets of ten for donations."

The students held a "Draw-athon" Jan. 21 in which Root's artists could be sponsored for creating artwork for donations.

The school held a memorial service Jan. 18 in which members of the community could light a candle in memory of the victims. Another memorial service at SHAPE Cinema is planned for Jan. 31, 4-5:30 p.m. Root said all donations will be directed by the Red Cross.

Root almost had a tsunami disaster story of his own. He almost was in Phouket, Thailand, one of the towns devastated by the tsu-

wife to vacation over the Christmas break in Bali instead of their original destination.

Well over 200,000 are reported to have perished in the Dec. 26 disaster, and the area will need all kinds of aid for years. The first practical thing people in other parts of the world can do to help is to help fund recognized agencies that will do the actual relief work.

"My philosophy is, if the tables had been turned, and if the same thing had happened here, then those people would do the same thing for us," Heineken said.

Root's email address is



Heineken



One "Valentines for Victims" card design being offered for sale by SHAPE American school students to raise money for relief of those suffering the Dec. 26 Indian Ocean tsunami disaster.

nam, on Dec. 26. Difficulty booking flights prompted him and his wife to vacation over the Christmas break in Bali instead of their original destination.

william.root@eu.dodea.edu and the school's phone is 065 44 5715.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day program salutes volunteers

By Rick Haverinen

The Equal Opportunity communities in SHAPE and Chièvres combined their observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday with recognition and awards for the volunteers who have supported the EO program during the past year.

Keynote speaker for the Jan. 18 event at SHAPE Cinema was Sgt. Maj. Frank Goodman, who is Sergeant Major for the Equal Opportunity office for USAREUR.

"As a young man, my parents would send me to one of my cousins every Saturday morning," Goodman said. "I would walk down the street envisioning my Saturday's playing time frittering away. When I reached her house, she would never tell me all the things she wanted me to do. What frustrated me most was that she would space out the tasks to last the whole day."

Goodman said his cousin would keep him doing chores until after dark and send him home with about 10 dollars.

"I would go back home, report to my father, and he would say, 'How much money did you make?'" Goodman said, "I would say, 'Ten dollars.' And he would say, 'Give me two. Now go to the store and buy your mother and Sis

a pack of Coca-Cola.' Then I would walk to the store crying, because I had to watch ten dollars become six."

"A lot of people don't realize the qualities of a volunteer," Goodman said. "They have good will toward their fellow men and women."

Goodman said Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was careful to include goals in his orations which could be summed up in the line, "Keep your eyes on the prize."

Goodman said six landmark events in the development of Civil Rights were: the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution; Executive Order 9981; The U.S. Supreme Court decision in "Brown vs. Board of Education;" and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The 13th Amendment ended slavery in the U.S.; the 14th Amendment made former slaves U.S. citizens; the 15th Amendment gave all U.S. citizens the right to vote; President Harry Truman's Executive Order 9981 desegregated the U.S. Armed Forces; "Brown vs. Board of Education" found that alleged "separate but

equal" education was not equal at all; and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provided a legal mechanism for people to respond to unlawful discrimination through the courts.

Goodman quoted King as warning, "We must set out to do a good job irrespective of race, and do it so well, that nobody can do it better."

Goodman said even the man who sweeps the street should do the job like Michelangelo worked on a painting.

"A lot of my colleagues say to me, 'Frank, we have come a long way, don't you think?'" Goodman said. "I don't disagree, but a house that is three-fourths complete is still incomplete, and 75 percent completion cannot provide adequate protection from the storm and the rain, or from the attack of intruders. If 'the prize' is the goal, then we must

move vigilantly to become 100 percent complete. If anyone has to convince you to support equal opportunity, especially in 2005, then there's a problem somewhere with the prize. And if there is a problem with the prize, then that area must be fixed."



Goodman